

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 19

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 23 April 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Private First Class *Garfield M. Langhorn*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who distinguished himself at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 15 January 1969, while serving as a radio operator with Troop C, 7th Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade, near Plei Djereng in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. *Private Langhorn's* platoon was inserted into a landing zone to rescue two pilots of a Cobra helicopter shot down by enemy fire on a heavily timbered slope. He provided radio coordination with the command-and-control aircraft overhead while the troops hacked their way through dense undergrowth to the wreckage, where both aviators were found dead. As the men were taking the bodies to a pickup site, they suddenly came under intense fire from North Vietnamese soldiers in camouflaged bunkers to the front and right flank, and within minutes they were surrounded. *Private Langhorn* immediately radioed for help from the orbiting gunships, which began to place mini-gun and rocket fire on the aggressors. He then lay between the platoon leader and another man, operating the radio and providing covering fire for the wounded who had been moved to the center of the small perimeter. Darkness soon fell, making it impossible for the gunships to give accurate support, and the aggressors began to probe the perimeter. An enemy hand grenade landed in front of *Private Langhorn* and a few feet from personnel who had become casualties. Choosing to protect these wounded, he unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, scooped it beneath his body and absorbed the blast. By sacrificing himself, he saved the lives of his comrades. *Private Langhorn's* conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the cost of his own life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

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